

Further records of *Malacosoma castrensis* L. (Lep.: Lasiocampidae) from Devon

Following the report of this species near the mouth of the river Axe in Devon by Mr King (*antea*: 306) I have two further records of larvae of this species – one by Dr Dennis Owen who saw them on the saltings at Axmouth on 17.vii.1995 and a further by Dr Owen who reports further sightings by Dr Colin Dawes on 26.vi.1995 at the same locality. Subsequently light traps were run on the saltings at Axmouth on 31st July, and adults of both sexes were obtained. Interestingly, the ground colour seems more straw-coloured than those from the north Kent coast.

The records are extraordinary given the distribution of this species. It is possible, but unlikely, that the species has always been resident – or could they have been introduced by some irresponsible person?– R. MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.

Olethreutes mygindiana D. & S. (Lep.: Tortricidae) in South Shropshire (VC40) and its suspected parasitoid *Glypta gracilis* (Hellén) – new to Britain

In a previous paper (Poyton, *Ent. Rec.* **107**: 73) the first and second records of *O. mygindiana* in Shropshire was reported from two locations separated by about 5 kms. I speculated that with the occurrence of its foodplant *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* along the Stiperstones hills I would not be surprised to find *O. mygindiana* to be more widely distributed than indicated by the specimens previously reported.

By collecting the larval spinnings along the length of the Stiperstones, from the Rock (SO 351964) in the south, to Crowsnest Dingle (SJ 375018) in the north this assumption has proved to be correct, with *O. mygindiana* quite common in the area. Additionally an apparently host-specific parasitoid *Glypta gracilis* (Hellén) has been reared from the larval spinnings, which is believed to be new to Britain.

On the 16th April 1995 patches of *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* were examined for the characteristic spinning of the larva at the top of a shoot (H.N. Michaelis, *The Entomologist*, **1963**: 11-14), with a number collected along the length of Nipstone Rock at an altitude of 350 metres from SO 351964 to SO 358971. On 18th April further spinnings were collected as we walked from Cranberry Rock (SO355981) to the Devils Chair (SO 357992), and the search finally completed on 6th May by sampling from the Devils Chair to the head of Crowsnest Dingle (SJ 375018) in the north. The spinnings from these three areas were kept in separate cylinder cages and all yielded both male and female specimens of *O. mygindiana*, with emergence generally in the late afternoon. The distance between the Rock and Crowsnest Dingle is some 6 kms.

During the collection of the larval spinnings and the subsequent emergence, the following points were noted: